



IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the status of the claims in accordance with the following:

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1. (currently amended) A cutting tool ~~having~~ comprising a blade and a member which is biased towards a safety position in which the member forms a guard for the blade, but which may be displaced to expose the blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece, and a locking mechanism having a trigger which must be moved from a first position to a second position to release the guard member from its safety position and arranged such that each time the guard member is released from its safety position, the guard member is displaced through a predetermined distance, and then returns to its safety position, the guard member will become locked in place regardless of the position of the trigger.

2. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the guard member is pivotally mounted to the tool.

3. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.

4. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3,

-2-

17

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wherein the strut is arranged to pivot in a vertical plane.

5. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.

6. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the recess comprises a guide-channel which extends substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the longitudinal axis of the strut and within which the lug prevents substantial axial movement of the strut.

7. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 6, arranged such that as the trigger is displaced from said first position to said second position, the strut is displaced such that the lug slides out of one end of the channel.

8. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workplace.

9. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

10. (currently amended) A cutting tool ~~having~~ comprising a blade and a sliding blade-carriage formed with

an elongate projection which extends substantially perpendicularly through a slot formed in the blade, the projection being rotatable about an axis parallel to its longitudinal axis and the slot being of substantially the same diameter as the projection and extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of movement of the carriage, so that as the projection is rotated, the blade is correspondingly advanced or withdrawn relative to the carriage.

11. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

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12. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the blade-carrier is mounted to the replaceable cartridge.

Claims 13-14 (canceled)

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15. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim [[14,]] ~~26~~¹³ wherein the portion of the passageway formed by the first and second walls is arranged to pivot away from the passageway about the forward edge of the portion.

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16. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim [[13,]] ~~26~~¹³ wherein the detached end section of the blade is pressed through an opening into the containment region.

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17. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim [[13,]] ~~26~~¹³, wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-cartridge.

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18. (Original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim ~~17~~¹⁶, wherein the replaceable blade carriage also provides the containment region for receiving detached blade sections.

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19. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim [[13,]] ~~26~~¹³, wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

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19
20. (original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim ~~19~~¹⁸, wherein the blank is arranged for two adjacent portions of the blank to be folded together, to form the passageway between their opposed faces, and for the portions on opposite sides of the blank to then be folded together, to form the containment region between their opposed faces.

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21. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim ~~19~~¹⁸, wherein the blank is formed from a plastic

material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

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22. (previously presented) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

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23. (currently amended) A cutting tool comprising a replaceable blade-carriage within which a blade is carried such that the blade may be slid from an exposed position to a retracted position and comprising means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the tool ~~whilst~~ while the blade is in its exposed position and means ~~which lock~~ for locking the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool.

24. (currently amended) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 23, comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the tool ~~whilst~~ while the blade is in its exposed position comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages a part of the tool body when the blade is in its exposed position, and a second portion which is displaced by the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position to disengage the first portion from said part of the tool body.

25. ^{2ef}(original) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim ~~23~~, ^{2a} comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position and the cartridge is outside of the tool, and a second position which is displaced by a part of the tool body when the blade is inserted into the tool to disengage the first portion from the blade-carrier.

26. ¹³(new) A cutting tool, comprising:
a passageway for receiving an elongate cutting blade formed with at least one line of weakness defining successive blade sections;

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a displaceable portion having a first wall and a second wall with said first wall and said second wall being opposed to one another and forming a portion of said passageway, said first wall and said second wall being pivotally mounted for displacement to one said of said passageway for forming a gap in said passageway, enabling an end section of said elongate cutting blade to be introduced into said gap, said displaceable portion being then returnable into line with said passageway for detaching said end section of said elongate cutting blade from a remainder of said elongate cutting blade; and,

a containment region for retaining said end section of

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said elongate cutting blade following said detaching of said
end section.

23